

Stuttering In The Preschooler

Sometimes, as children learn to talk, they may stutter (hesitate or repeat themselves). This may happen more often when they are tired, excited, or feel pressured to perform:

DO:

1. Do remember that stuttering is often part of normal speech and language development.
2. Do be patient and let your child have as much time as needed. Look at your child, pay attention and show that you are interested in *what* your child is saying, not *how* he is saying it.
3. Do spend some time playing and talking with your child alone every day.
4. Speak slowly and clearly to your child and *show* him what to do rather than telling him to slow down.
5. Respond naturally to your child's speech so as to show him that it is okay to be non-fluent.

DON'T:

1. Don't make your child aware of her speech/stuttering.
2. Don't react negatively (e.g.,: do not say things like "slow down", "say it again" or shake your head).
3. Don't ask too many questions. Instead, talk *with* your child.
4. Don't fill in the words when your child is "stuck", let him finish. Your child will not learn that he can talk for himself.
5. Don't make the child's or the family's schedule too busy. This may increase the feelings of time pressure.